

Canadian Snowbirds - Gas Pump Credit Card Alert

I'm sure that like me, you find it very convenient when travelling in the US, to drive into a gas station, swipe your credit card at the pump and fill up your tank. Sadly this is changing and in particular, in Florida. *A number of gas stations will no longer allow Canadian credit cards* (i.e., those without a zip code in their billing address) *to be used for at-the-pump gas purchases.*

Our credit cards are no longer welcome at their pumps. If you don't have a 5 digit US zip code - you cannot start pumping unless you go inside the gas station store first.

We are advised by gas bar attendants that the answer is for you to surrender your card to the clerk who will then turn on the pump for you (*the clerk is honest—you are not?*).

However, this practice makes your card's account vulnerable to illegal use and may violate the agreement (and "built-in" fraud protection) between yourself and the Canadian bank issuing your card.

Alternatively, we are told that you can go inside and have your card charged for a specific dollar amount before you fill.

But most travelers want to "top up their tank" and it is very difficult to pre-calculate the cost of the gas you need to do this.

Also, be aware that many gas bar clerks cannot credit back any of the \$\$ amount you do not use.

Both "solution" are inconvenient since they require two trips to the counter, often with long "waits" in line.



A major gas company on I-75 popular with RVers, now has "zip code required" pumps at its outlets across the USA, and it may not be long before others chains follow suit. Visit www.i75online.com/CreditCard.html for a list of stations refusing Canadian credit cards.

Incidentally, with the exception of the major gas company listed above, the adaptation of gas pumps to only accept U.S. cards is at the discretion of the gas retailer (franchisee) rather than the gas company - although the gas companies do make a profit by providing the required software.

Our solution? Don't give your business to a gas station which automatically assumes you are dishonest and will not accept your card at the pump. Patronize and circulate the names of those gas stations which *will* honour a Canadian credit card at their pumps.

Dave Hunter, author,
Along I-75 and Along Florida's Expressways

Help us gather information. We are collecting data about gas stations which **do** ("yes") or **do not** ("no") allow you to use your Canadian credit card at the pump.

Please e.mail me with your Southern gas pump experiences this winter ... put **Snowbird Credit Card Alert** in the subject line, and provide me with the station **name** (e.g., Shell, Hess, etc.), **street address**, **city/state**, and **exit number** if at an expressway exit. Write each location on a separate line and indicate whether "**yes**" or "**no**."

E-mail the information to:
mile_oak@rogers.com

I will post it for all to use at . . .
www.i75online.com/CreditCard.html

If you prefer, you can mail the information to me at:
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